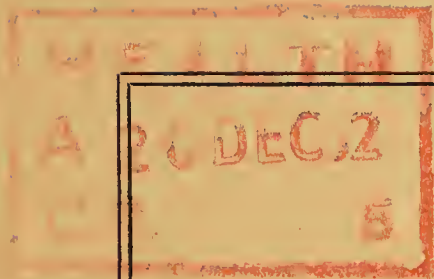


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**BOROUGH AND PORT
OF SANDWICH**

1951



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

T. F. Pain & Sons, Ltd., Sandwich & Deal



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BOROUGH AND PORT OF SANDWICH

Mayor : Councillor J. J. THOMAS.

Chairman of Public Health Committee :

Councillor F. J. SNELLING.

Town Clerk : L. N. WATTS.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

T. DOUGLAS, until 15/5/51.

G. T. ROWLANDS, 16/5/51.

Medical Officer of Health :

T. J. NICHOLL, F.R.C.S., D.P.H., until 30/10/51.

M. S. HARVEY, M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., 1/11/51.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough and Port of Sandwich.

I have the honour to submit a report on the Public Health and General Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1951.

During the year an arrangement was implemented to associate the Office of Medical Officer of Health of the Borough, with a similar post in four other Local Authorities, namely Canterbury C.B., Whitstable U.D., Bridge Blean R.D., and Eastry R.D. This meant the severance of an association with Dr. T. G. Nicholl, F.R.C.S., D.P.H., which had been a very happy one for he had served you well for some years.

It is with a realisation of how difficult it will be to fill his place that I have taken on these duties; his dignity and wisdom in office will be missed.

Mr. Rowlands also came to you during the year, taking over from the late Mr. Douglas, the wide and responsible duties of Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. This office requires versatility and a wide knowledge. Mr. Rowlands possesses these qualities.

You have given us welcome and encouragement for these tasks.

The following report is of some necessity brief and comments are added where warranted.

Your obedient servant,

M. S. HARVEY.

Social Conditions.

The area of the Borough, including inland water, is 2,137 acres.

Much of this outside the old boundary is river bank and low-lying marsh land, but some of that low-lying land to the North-east shows an awakening of light industrial development which will benefit the employable residents of Ramsgate as well as the Sandwich folk. The Borough's importance as a Market Town to the surrounding agricultural area continues. The port is a peaceful haven.

Statistical Detail.

Population: The Census of 1951 shows a population of 4,142, of which 2,049 are male and 2,093 female. This is a 12.3% increase on the census figure of 1931, of total 3,687, males 1,783, females 1,904, and shows a more balanced distribution between the sexes.

The Registrar General's estimate of population for Mid-1951 was 4,349 of which 347 were 0—4 years inclusive and 628 were 5—14 years inclusive.

General:

The Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1951 was 1,378.

The Rateable Value in 1951 was £32,233.

The Product of a 1d. rate was £125 9s. 6.82d.

Vital Statistics.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births:	27	32	59

(All occurred within marriage).

Stillbirths: There were four stillbirths all within marriage and all male.

These figures give a Birth Rate of 13.65 per 1,000 population. In order to compare this correctly the Registrar General's comparability factor of 1.19 is applied. This gives a corrected Birth Rate of 16.14 which compares favourably with the Birth Rate of 15.5 for England and Wales but is lower than that for smaller towns in the Country which have a Birth Rate of 16.7 per 1,000 population.

The small figure of four does not warrant the calculation of a stillbirth rate.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths: All Causes:	27	23	50

One death occurred of a child under 1 year of age.

No deaths occurred under the age of 1 month.

These figures give a crude Death Rate of 11.49 per 1,000 population. Applying the comparability factor of 0.89 this is corrected to 10.23 per 1,000 population and compares well with that for England and Wales of 12.5 and that for the smaller towns which is also 12.5.

Causes of Death.

No deaths occurred from Tuberculosis during the year. The death of the child under 1 year was due to virus pneumonia.

The causes of death are listed below:

	Total.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Infectious or Parasitic Diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus ...	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	5	3	2
Leukemia and Aleukemia	1	1	—
Diabetes	2	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	5	2
Coronary Disease and Angina Pectoris	4	4	—
Hypertension and Heart Disease	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	7	3	4
Other Circulatory Disease	7	2	5
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	2	1
Bronchitis	4	2	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	3	2
	—	—	—
Total:	50	27	23
	—	—	—

Ages of Death.

	0-1	1-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-80	80-90	90+	Total
Male	1	—	1	1	7	10	7	—	27
Female ..	—	—	—	—	9	10	4	—	23
Total ..	1	—	1	1	16	20	11	—	50

Infectious Diseases.

The following cases were notified during the year:—

	Notified	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	5	4
Whooping Cough	6	—
Measles	37	—
Erysipelas	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1

The age distribution of these diseases was as follows:—

	0—5		5—15		15—25		25+	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough .	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	13	6	11	5	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Seasonal Incidence.

Measles was prevalent during January and February but subsided rapidly except for a short increase in April.

Scarlet Fever, whose incidence is more a measure of the presence of haemolytic streptococcal infection than the presence of a clinical entity appeared in July and November.

Whooping Cough appeared at the end of the year in small numbers.

The case of food poisoning was connected with a South Coast town and was not of local origin.

Tuberculosis.

As noted above no deaths occurred from this disease.

Five names were added to the T.B. Register during the year and after removing the names of recovered or departed cases there remained on the register on April 1952, six males

and ten females, of which thirteen were pulmonary and three non-pulmonary.

Section 47, National Assistance Act.

No action was taken during the year, but one case was under observation at the end of the year.

General Provision of Health Services for the Borough.

General Hospitals: Ramsgate General Hospital; Victoria Hospital, Deal; Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Infectious Diseases: Haine Hospital, Ramsgate; Dover Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Ambulance Service: Depots are sited at Broadstairs, Canterbury and Deal.

There are no Nursing Homes in the Borough although enquiries suggest local interest in such provision. The County Council provides the services for the care of mothers and young children in the form of a clinic at the Masonic Hall, health visitors and midwives serving the area. The Home Help Organiser is centred on Ramsgate.

Tuberculosis Service.

Chest Clinics are held at Canterbury, Ramsgate and Deal, the clinic at Deal being the appropriate one for Sandwich folk. (Deal Chest Clinic, 16, Clanwilliam Road, Deal).

Veneral Diseases.

Clinics for the treatment of Veneral Diseases are held at Margate General Hospital, Kent and Canterbury Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover. The latter is the nearest and is held at 5 p.m. Monday and 6 p.m. Thursday. The Canterbury Clinic is open for females Tuesday and Friday 2.30—3.30 p.m., for males Tuesday and Friday 5—6.30 p.m. No appointment is required.

Vaccination and Immunisation Service.

This is provided under the National Health Service free of charge, both through the family doctor and the local welfare clinic, and also by arrangements through the School Health Service. The County Medical Officer has supplied the following details of work done and the present position in Sandwich.

**Number of Children shown by Year of Birth who have completed a Course of
Diphtheria Immunisation at any time before 31-12-51.**

Year of Birth	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total
	54	54	48	96	41	39	61	56	78	79	75	50	42	50	7	830

**Number of Children by Year of Birth who were Immunised against
Diphtheria during the Year ending 31-12-51.**

Year of Birth	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
Primary Inoculations	7	41	3	1	3	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	4	68
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	3	25	7	4	2	—	2	1	10	19	23	96

**Number of Persons Vaccinated against Smallpox
during the Year ending 31-12-51.**

Age at 31st Dec., 1951	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	26	12	4	6	48
Number Re-vaccinated	—	—	5	12	17

Thus 88% of children aged 5 to 15 have been immunized against Diphtheria at some time but only 64% of these under 5 years of age have been so immunized. The local lethargy over vaccination against smallpox has resulted in less than 50% of babies being vaccinated. This is not good enough for a port or a town in the proximity of an airfield.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(and the work of the Sanitary Inspector)

Water.

The water supply for the Borough is obtained from deep wells at Woodnesborough. The Water Work is owned by the Corporation, and the water pumped from there is chemically treated before delivery. The average quantity of water supplied was 220,000 gallons per day.

During the year the portion of the main under the river Stour was renewed, and the supply of water to the Ramsgate road area was considerably improved.

Two samples of water were sent for chemical analysis and the following is the result of the sample taken from the reservoir on June 6th, 1951.

	Parts per million
Total solid residue	452
Chlorine	39
Free Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	—
Albuminoid Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	0.03
Nitrogen as Nitrates	3.00
Nitrogen as Nitrites	—
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 26.7 C.	0.12
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 26.7 C.	0.23
Toxic Metals	—
O.H.	7.06

Remarks.—The water is of satisfactory quality.

Throughout the year samples of water have been taken, and sent to the County Laboratories, Maidstone for Bacteriological Examination. The following table gives the details of these examinations.

		Organisms		B. coli in 100 Ml.
		37 C	22 C	
25- 1-51	Reservoir	3	9	—
22- 2-51	Guildhall	0	12	—
28- 3-51	Reservoir	0	0	—
26- 4-51	Guildhall	0	56	—
24- 5-51	Reservoir	0	2	—
26- 6-51	Drinking Foun- tain, New Street	0	4	—
26- 7-51	Red Lion	0	3	—
30- 8-51	Reservoir	0	6	—
27- 9-51	Guildhall	0	0	—
25-10-51	Reservoir	0	0	—
29-11-51	Guildhall	0	2	—
22-12-51	Reservoir	0	3	—

All samples being pronounced as Good Water.

Rainfall.

The following table gives the rainfall throughout the year as measured at Loop Street, Sandwich:

January	2.93 inches
February	5.18 „
March	2.57 „
April	1.31 „
May	1.91 „
June	1.25 „
July	1.36 „
August	3.09 „
September	4.43 „
October	1.97 „
November	3.63 „
December	2.13 „

Total for Year	31.76 inches
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Drainage and Sewage.

Main drainage is provided for practically the whole of the Borough, the effluent being discharged into the river Stour at two points.

The number of premises connected to the main drainage is 1,363.

The number of premises connected to cesspools is 15.

During the year the system worked satisfactorily, although there were a few blockages, which emphasised the fact that many of the manholes are spaced at too great a distance. One new manhole had to be constructed at a troublesome point, and an order was placed for the construction of three others.

The 9in. sewer in the housing estate has been extended and extra houses connected to this main.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is carried out by the Corporation. There is one collection each week, the refuse being collected from the houses and taken to the tip at Richborough, by means of a Karrier Bantam Refuse collection vehicle. The method of disposal is by controlled tipping, where the refuse is compacted and then covered by earth.

The collection of salvage paper and cardboard was made at the same time as the refuse collection, the salvage being placed in a trailer behind the refuse vehicle.

Inspection of Food.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made 123 inspections of Bakehouses, Dairies and food preparation places in the Borough. The conditions found were satisfactory.

Meat.

During the year the following animals were killed at the slaughter house in Loop Street.

Cattle	1,268	Sheep	2,347
Calves	1,294	Pigs	566

All these animals and their offal were inspected and 13 tons 16cwt. 31lb. of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Condemnation of Food Stuff.

During the past year the following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Canned foods 201 tins Mixed foods 135 lbs.

Ice Cream.

Routine inspections of all premises dealing with Ice Cream were made during the year. Conditions were found satisfactory.

There is a welcome tendency for reduction of the sale of bulk, and increase in the sale of prepacked Ice Cream, which will mean that one of the possible sources of contamination of this foodstuff is being eliminated.

The number of premises registered in the Borough is 15.

Milk.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector carried out regular routine inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds and delivery vans in the Borough.

Number of registered Dairies 1.

Number of registered Retailers 4.

Inspection of Area.

The routine sanitary inspection of the Borough continued throughout the year.

Number of Statutory Notices served: Nil.

Number of Informal Notices served: 19.

The nature of these inspections was as follows:—

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	105
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	20
Food Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	49
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	65
Cinema	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	460

Shops Act, 1950.

Twenty visits in connection with the general administration of the Shops Act, 1950 were made during the year. Conditions found were satisfactory and no formal action was necessary.

Factories Act.

Inspection of Factories under sections of the 1937 Factories Act, concerning sanitary provision and general health and hygiene were made during the year.

	Number on Register	Inspection	Written Notices
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are enforced by the Local Authority	17	34	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	16	31	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ..	—	—	—
Total	33	65	—

	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (51)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (52)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (53) ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (54)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floor (56)	4	4	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (57)	4	4	—	—
Other Offences ..	—	—	—	—
Total	8	8	—	—

Rodent Control.

A part-time Rodent Officer is employed to carry out the work entailed by rat and mice infestation.

During the year 134 inspections were made and 1 major and 44 minor infestations were discovered and dealt with.

The routine treatment of the sewers showed that rats were present in the sewers near the river. The treatment of those sewers showing the presence of rats was carried out with good results.

Verminous Premises.

Two complaints were received during the year and were satisfactorily dealt with.

HOUSING.

Local Authority.

The development of Sandwood Housing Estate continued throughout the year. 27 houses were completed and

occupied and others commenced. These houses were of the three bedroom type as have been built previously.

It was decided, however, that there was a need for some two bedroom houses, and 18 should be built, the majority of these being in blocks of four houses.

The plans for these have been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. After the contracts for these have been placed the situation will be reviewed and the existing requirements will govern whether more two bedroom types will be built or the programme revert to three bedroom houses.

Private Enterprise.

During the year five houses were erected by private enterprise. Since 1946 the Corporation and Private Enterprise have erected 170 new houses. In spite of this, however, there is still a housing shortage, and there is a long waiting list for Council Houses.

The number of applications for Private building, however, is comparatively few.

General.

The number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts were 84.

The number of dwellings found to be unfit for human habitation were three and these were closed, the owners giving an undertaking not to let them for dwellings unless work to the satisfaction of the Local Authority is carried out.

The number of dwellings found not to be fit in all respects were 20 and these were remedied by informal action.

PORT OF SANDWICH.

Particulars of shipping entering the Port during the year 1951 were as follows:—

	Ships	Tonnage
Foreign	Nil	Nil
Coastwise (sail and motor) ..	24	2,868

The total tonnage for 1950 was 3,851 tons, so a drop of 1,000 tons occurred during the year. It is a more hopeful sign that the tonnage in the last half of 1951 was well above the first six months, and if this trend continues the tonnage for next year should be equal or above the tonnage for 1950.

The cargoes discharged consisted of:—

Petroleum Products
Timber
Cattle Food
Beans

Hospital facilities for infectious diseases are available at Haine Hospital, Ramsgate. Ambulance access to the quay presents no difficulty. Mooring for ships carrying diseases of international significance has been considered. It is in a part of the river which is isolated but which has free ambulance access.

Sanitary Conveniences are available on the quay side but the bathing station in the Borough has now been closed. The nearest facilities for steam disinfection of bedding is Haine Hospital. Centres for the treatment of Veneral Diseases are shown earlier in this report.

